Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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TAGS: PFOR, IZ, SY, IR

SUBJ: SYRIA-IRAQ-IRAN RELATIONS

REF: TEHRAN 3309

1. ADDITIONAL INDICATIONS OF IRANIAN PIQUE AT RECENT SYRIAN CRITICISM OF IRAN-IRAQ BORDER AGREEMENT AND SYRIAN DESIGNATION OF IRAN'S KHUZISTAN PROVINCE AS "ARABISTAN" WAS GIVEN BY CAUSTIC EDITORIAL IN APRIL 13 ENGLISH-LANGUAGE KAYHAN. UNSIGNED ARTICLE EMPHASIZES IRANIAN DISINTEREST IN IRAQ-SYRIA IDEOLOGICAL OR RIVERINE DISPUTES BUT CASTIGATES SYRIAN BAATH DEPUTY SECGEN ABDULLAH AL-AHMAR AS QTE ABDULLAH THE RED UNQTE. EDITORIAL NOTES THAT IN CRITICIZING IRAN-IRAQ BORDER AGREEMENT AL-AHMAR IS ASKING FOR QTE HEREDITARY MANTLE OF COLONIALISM IN MIDDLE EAST UNQTE, WHEREAS IRANIANS VIEW AGREEMENT AS REMOVING ANOTHER LEGACY OF BRITISH IMPERIALISM.

2. CONTINUING HONEYMOON IN IRAN-IRAQ RELATIONS EVIDENCED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY APPEARANCE IN PRESS OF VARIOUS FAVORABLE ARTICLES

ABOUT IRAQ. INCLUDED ARE BRIEF MENTION OF POSSIBLE IRAQI
AID TO SUDAN AND LENGTHY PROGRESS-ORIENTED ARTICLE BY
HOLGER JENSEN DESCRIBING IRAQ AS RAPIDLY DEVELOPING
WELFARE STATE WITH GREAT AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL WHICH
FAVORS BLOC POLITICS BUT LOOKS TO WEST FOR ECONOMIC
TIES. SUCH FAVORABLE COVERAGE OF IRAQ COULD NOT HAVE APPEARED
IN GUIDED IRANIAN PRESS BEFORE ALGIERS AGREEMENT.
HELMS

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